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COUNCIL DECISION (EU) 2026/2217

of 17 February 2026

on the signing and provisional application of the Agreement, in the form of an Exchange of Letters, between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco amending and supplementing the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco setting out the terms and conditions for the participation of the Kingdom of Morocco in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)

THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union, and in particular Article 186, in conjunction with Article 218(5) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the European Commission,

Whereas:

(1) Decision (EU) 2017/1324 of the European Parliament and of the Council [1] established the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) under Horizon 2020 – Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020), established by Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council [2], for a period until 31 December 2028.

(2) The Kingdom of Morocco ('Morocco') is one of the 19 Participating States of PRIMA, having concluded an agreement for scientific and technological cooperation setting out the terms and conditions for its participation in the partnership (the 'PRIMA Agreement') [3]. The purpose of the PRIMA Agreement is to set out the terms and conditions for the participation of Morocco in PRIMA. The PRIMA Agreement is to remain in force for as long as Decision (EU) 2017/1324 is in force.

(3) Decision (EU) 2024/1167 of the European Parliament and of the Council [4] extended PRIMA's overall duration under Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation ('Horizon Europe'), established by Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council [5], until 31 December 2031. It also provides for Morocco to continue to participate in PRIMA under Horizon Europe, subject to the conclusion of an agreement, in the form of an Exchange of Letters, amending and supplementing the PRIMA Agreement.

(4) Since Morocco has expressed its interest in continuing to participate in PRIMA under Horizon Europe, it should formally accept the updated terms and conditions for such participation.

[1] Decision (EU) 2017/1324 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2017 on the participation of the Union in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) jointly undertaken by several Member States (OJ L 185, 18.7.2017, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2017/1324/oj).

[2] Regulation (EU) No 1291/2013 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 11 December 2013 establishing Horizon 2020 – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) and repealing Decision No 1982/2006/EC (OJ L 347, 20.12.2013, p. 104, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2013/1291/oj).

[3] Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco setting out the terms and conditions for the participation of the Kingdom of Morocco in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) (OJ L 106, 26.4.2018, p. 3, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2018/639/oj).

[4] Decision (EU) 2024/1167 of the European Parliament and of the Council of the 11 April 2024 amending Decision (EU) 2017/1324 as regards the continuation of the Union's participation in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area ('PRIMA') under Horizon Europe (OJ L, 2024/1167, 19.4. 2024, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2024/1167/oj).

[5] Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/695/oj).

(5) To that end, on 9 November 2023 the Council adopted Decision (EU) 2023/2621 ([6]), authorising the Commission to negotiate an agreement, in the form of an Exchange of Letters, amending and supplementing the PRIMA Agreement and setting out the terms and conditions for the participation of Morocco in PRIMA under Horizon Europe (the 'Agreement').

(6) The negotiations were successfully concluded by the initialling of the Agreement on 8 September 2025.

(7) Therefore, the Agreement should be signed.

(8) In order to allow Morocco to continue its participation in PRIMA under Horizon Europe as soon as possible, the Agreement should be applied on a provisional basis, pending its entry into force,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

The signing of the Agreement, in the form of an Exchange of Letters, between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco amending and supplementing the Agreement for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and the Kingdom of Morocco setting out the terms and conditions for the participation of the Kingdom of Morocco in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) ([7]) is hereby authorised, subject to the conclusion of that Agreement.

Article 2

The Agreement shall be applied on a provisional basis as from the date of its signing, pending its entry into force.

Article 3

This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, 17 February 2026.

For the Council

The President

M. KERAVNOS

([6]) Council Decision (EU) 2023/2621 of 9 November 2023 authorising the opening of negotiations for agreements, in the form of an Exchange of Letters, amending and supplementing the agreements for scientific and technological cooperation between the European Union and the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Lebanon and the Kingdom of Morocco, respectively, setting out the terms and conditions for their participation with regard to Horizon Europe in the Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA) jointly undertaken by several Member States (OJ L, 2023/2621, 21.11.2023, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/dec/2023/2621/oj).

([7]) The text of the Agreement is published in OJ L, 2026/2218, 5.10.2026, ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2026/2218/oj.